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PATENT APPLICATION

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5/26/04
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Not yet assigned
KAZUMA SATO et al.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2161
Application No.: 09/840,892)	
	:	
Filed: April 25, 2001)	
	:	
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD)	
FOR COLLECTING USED	:	
OFFICE SUPPLIES)	May 13, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAY 20 2004
GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,408,079

JP 6-96094
JP11-349104

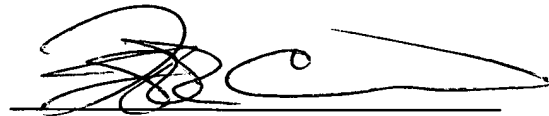
These documents were cited during prosecution of a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is enclosed.

English-language abstracts for the Japanese documents cited in the Japanese Office Action are enclosed. A concise explanation of relevance for each of these documents is believed to be provided by the English-language abstracts. In addition, U.S. Patent No. 5,408,079 is believed to be an English-language counterpart of JP 6-096094.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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